

THE INTELLIGENCER

ESTABLISHED 1860.

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ADVERTISING

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The Intelligencer will publish brief and rational letters on subjects of general interest when they are accompanied by the names and addresses of the authors and are not of a defamatory nature. Anonymous communications will not be noticed. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned.

In order to avoid delays on account of personal absence, letters to The Intelligencer intended for publication should not be addressed to any individual connected with the paper, but simply to The Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1915.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Never before has the fire department of Anderson proved its worth so convincingly as it did Tuesday. Twice they were summoned to fires, both of which threatened the very heart of the business section of the city. Twice they were found in readiness and twice they did work which the citizens of Anderson shall not soon forget.

At 5:30 o'clock in the morning the Jenkins-McGowan storerooms were burned, and as the wind was blowing strongly at the time these flames threatened to do considerable damage. The fire department was kept constantly pouring water on this blaze for over five hours. After that came the cleaning of the apparatus and getting the hose in place. The men had already done a full day's work.

When the second fire broke out at 7 o'clock in the evening the firemen were ready to respond to the call with their hose on the wagons, which in fire fighting circles is equivalent to the wise virgins who had their lamps trimmed and filled with oil.

The efficiency of Chief Jackson as a fire fighter was demonstrated by the way he managed his men and placed his lines of hose where they would do the most good. It takes a man of ability to compete with such a fire as that of last night.

THE ANDERSON SPIRIT.

"Well, I made it all myself, and I can do it again," are the words which fell from the lips of T. Q. Anderson last night as he gazed upon the smoldering ruins of the big plant which was reduced to a pile of glowing embers in less than an hour.

This makes the third time in thirty days that his business has been attacked by fire. When his factory was burned to the ground a month ago he ordered new machinery by wire, and the following morning set about clearing away the rubbish and preparing to build anew.

The new plant was finished and once again the wheels of industry were busy again, and Tommie was as happy as ever. A few days ago he had another blaze in his place, but it amounted to little. He planted his foot on it, so to speak, and went right ahead.

And now he is again burned out. But are the flames had completed their work of destruction he was

heard to say, with dogged determination, "I did it all myself, and I can do it again."

That's the spirit that has made both Andersons, T. Q. and the town.

THEY'RE GOOD LOSERS.

The Intelligencer had thought once that it would extend some word of sympathy to the men who lost so heavily in last night's fire, but on second thought we will not. For they are not the kind of men who go about the world looking for sympathy, and we do not believe that they want it. They are made of a different kind of stuff from that.

J. E. Barton has been in business here for thirty years or more. He came here with practically nothing and what he has now he has made it here, by dint of hard work and attention to business. While a loss like that which he suffered last night may feel like a terrible blow to him just at this time, it is really of small moment. The loss of a few thousand dollars will not prove any serious obstacle in his path. He's made differently.

The same is true of T. Q. Anderson. Such things as fires don't worry him. They are just a little inconvenient at first, that's all.

The Piedmont & Northern Railway lost heavily, but they will come back. They have too much at stake not to do so. Besides the power behind this concern is too deeply interested in the welfare of this town to let a small fire cut any figure in what he is trying to do for the community.

Capt. John R. Anderson and the Blue Ridge can stand the loss they sustained. They got off lighter than any of the others, but it would have been the same had they been the heaviest losers.

Did you ever know of a fire in this town that affected a set of men as little as last night's fire will affect these citizens good and true?

PRIVACY

No thing in life is at once so ordinarily desirable and impossible as privacy.

Privacy is invaded when one wishes to sleep, it may be by the child of the neighbor, that cries.

The man in the flat overhead may wake at 5 in the morning and in a loud tone demand custard pie left over and still on ice in the refrigerator.

These things, however, are but the coarse expedients which are taken by those to whom privacy is nothing; who have never sensed their desecration by having experienced the boon; who have no notion of the fact that there are people who, surrounded by a dense silence, make chums of themselves in their own company.

A satisfactory solitude may be attacked as a species of conceit, but it can not be violated without atrocity to the peaceful dweller within that charmed circle of self-contentment. In times long since happily gone by, how many incubations have been decried by lightning-rod agents? Can we yet yield a perfectly candid opinion on the state of our heart, liver and lungs to the casual gentlemen with a mean cigar who comes in looking like the Leader of the House and turns out to be nothing better than the local representative of the famous company that was built on the sands and yet survives?

Yet these people continue to afflict the average man. Now and again we read a scandal based on some action of Mrs. Wilson in going through Mr. Husband's coat pockets. Can they never understand—that a man's pockets are as sacred as his bathtub?

A man with dirty fingers comes in to sell set of Shakespeares. Or, if you do not wish Shakespeares, he will make you Brownings, and all the same to him. It may be that what he wishes is just a sample loan, as one good fellow to another.

In that case, one may estimate the price of his riddance and be rid of him, copping up his feet and growling at the next intrusion.

"You don't want to be bothering me when I'm reading of the New York Herald, see?"—Columbia State.

Alarm Clocks Annoy Sleeping Hens.

Farm and Fireside, a national farm paper published at Springfield, Ohio, has been offering prizes for the best letters describing ways and means to discourage sitting hens. In the current issue the prize winning letters are published. First prize went to the writer of the following letter:

"Some years ago I was endeavoring to break up a sitting hen, but my efforts were in vain. 'Old Yaller' continued to sit."

"Finally I took a small alarm clock and set it so it would go off in a few minutes. I placed it in one corner of her nest and watched. It went off, and she stood dazed for one horrified instant and then with one screech she ran out of the henhouse and flew over the park fence and began to hunt for bugs in the grass."

"She not only stopped sitting but she stopped clucking and in a short time began to lay. I have since tried this method on more than 100 broody hens with complete success."

Fitting Change.

It is very fitting that the name of Spartanburg Junction should be changed to "Hayne." The line from Spartanburg across the mountains, the possibilities of which the late Robert Y. Hayne first saw, really begins at the Junction and it is proper that the station there should bear his name.—Spartanburg Journal.

PALMETTO PRESS.

As to Entering.

How would you like to turn in one of the submarine "tigers" in Charleston harbor?—The State. Believe we'd rather turn into one.—Pickens Sentinel.

Nothing Short.

If they lop the "ville" off, the resulting "York" will be the shortest county town name in the State—but there will be nothing else short about York.—Columbia State.

Voting on Name.

On the 26th of May the people of Yorkville will vote on changing the name of York. We think such an occasion demands special railroad rates and we would suggest that some one get busy.—Chester News.

Grip in Grippe.

We beg to differ with the Rock Hill Record, which thinks that "the grippe" should have a new name. The name, we think, is very appropriate, but the simplified spelling, "grip," would be still more in keeping with the nature of the malady.—Lancaster News.

Not Likely.

From the way Gen. Victoriano Huerta knocks President Wilson, it looks as if he might be in the employ of the Republican party; but it is not likely that his jobs at the administration will have much effect on fair-minded and thinking people.—Chester Reporter.

It's Better.

The German newspapers ridicule President Wilson's administration as a "joke". Well, even at that, far better be it comedy than tragedy.—Kingstree County Record.

Why Not?

The Columbia State thinks that the newspapers and magazines which have spent so many months in criticism of the conviction of Frank, to be consistent, should go "a step further" and demand that Frank be not only turned loose, but that the jury that convicted him be hanged. Why not go two steps still further and include the prosecuting attorney and the trial judge?—Lancaster News.

Plant Prosperity.

Plenty of corn, potatoes, peas, can, peanuts, etc., means prosperity for the growers.—Pageland Journal.

Easily Converted.

It is surprising how easily a city man is converted to the need of good roads. He finds himself unable to drive his car 50 miles an hour over some particular highway.—Florence Times.

Not to Be Blamed.

The other day we saw a farmer literally flying out of town with a bale of Western hay strapped to the rear of an automobile. We do not blame the man for exceeding the speed limit; if it had been us we would have waited in a back alley until after midnight.—Dillon Herald.

Where the Queue?

China has, upon advice of somebody, rejected Japan's demands. Wonder where she got her queue?—Greenville News.

Presidential Booms.

All Democratic presidential booms for 1916, except that of President Wilson, look to us to be about the size of the well known mustard seed.—Greenville News.

Little Hope.

The Colonel is quoted as saying, "I would prefer to go to bed again with Penrose and Barnes rather than see the Wilson-Bryan combination succeed." But Penrose and Barnes would hardly dare hope for a very reposed night.—News and Courier.

Query?

The same old question comes up again and again. If prohibition doesn't prohibit why does the whiskey trust keep on talking like it does?—Greenwood Journal.

Sounds Good.

Elbert Hubbard says the war will end before cold weather and that cotton will go up to 15 or 20 cents. As a prognosticator we are afraid that Elbert is in Mme. de Thebes' class, but at any rate the prophecy sounds good.—Columbia State.

What is Needed.

Germany and Austria want our cotton. We send it to them and England seizes our ships. She says she will make the matter right by paying for the cotton. That sounds very well, but it does not satisfy. In the first place it is not right from any standpoint.

In the second place it is a hardship on the cotton grower. If we were permitted to supply the demand of Germany and Austria for cotton, there would be material effect on the price. When England buys all the cotton that is intended for Germany and Austria, she has more than she can use, and the market goes down on account of the glut. England is able to take our stuff at her own price. If we should let England take unless she ceases interference with our cotton, we will cease selling her anything else, including copper, powder, shells and the like, she will be glad to let our cotton go wherever we desire to send it. The Enquirer believes that this country should stand for just that.—Yorkville Enquirer.

Gaillard Cat.

President Wilson, in changing the name of Culebra cut in the Panama canal to Gaillard cut, honored a Southern born and reared man, who not only gave his life performing his duty, but was an ornament to the United States Army.—Lancaster News.

PRESS COMMENT.

Our Absurd Home Tax Law.

In our very ridiculous State income tax law a provision that is especially absurd is the purport that "Costs of repairs to property are not to be deducted from the rents or income derived from such property."

John Smith is the owner of a house that, before it can be rented for \$500 a year or \$1 a year, requires to have its roof made watertight, and its plumbing sanitary at a cost of \$200. He spends the \$200, receives the rent of \$500 (being \$300 more than he has paid out) and the State requires him to pay \$3 on the \$300 and \$2 on the \$200 as well.

John Smith is actually taxed on the sum that he pays in order to make the property yield an income whatsoever—the State penalizes him for making his property an income tax producer. These repairs observe, are merely in the way of "upkeep," adding nothing to the permanent value of the property.

The federal income tax law of course contains no such absurdity. It does not provide an incentive for the owner of a house to allow it to remain vacant and fall to pieces.

In this particular, however, the State law would long ago have been amended except that legislatures have not expected the law to be enforced and have left it on the statute books in the hope that here and there, from an exceptionally conscientious or exceptionally wealthy man, a few extra dollars might be squeezed for the State treasury.

If Comptroller General Sawyer succeeds in his commendable endeavor to enforce the law, it will be repealed. The well-to-do people of South Carolina do not intend to pay taxes on their incomes. They are not of that kind.

It would be easier to prevent the "foreign" element in Charleston selling whiskey by the drink than to collect an income tax from the native South Carolinians whose incomes are \$2,500 and more.—Columbia State.

Using Up the Cotton.

There are some people who yet love to speculate on what might have been the condition of the South today with its tremendous crop of cotton had not so large a portion of it come into demand by reason of the war. As a matter of course, the good prices are the result of demand, and that only. Some of the cotton experts of New Orleans are trying to figure out a prospective demand for the whole of a crop that at one time looked like it would furnish a distressing surplus. The correspondent of the New York Post at that place says that up to the end of March as shown by the government's monthly figures, cotton consumed at home from the 16,800,000 bale commercial crop of 1914 was about 200,000 bales below the same period last year, while exports were about 2,000,000 bales below it. But in recent months, exports have increased 500,000 to 600,000 bales a month over 1914, and there has been a crop that at one time looked like it would furnish a distressing surplus. 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